

putting an end to political prosecutions and other reprisals against those who oppose him and allow their full participation in political life. In order to find credibility with both the Ukrainian people and the international community, he must end restrictions on freedom of speech and association and reverse the debilitating corruption and judicial subservience to the executive which has so eroded the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the Ukrainian authorities to stop their slide to authoritarianism and resulting isolation which will only harm Ukrainians who for so long—and at such great cost—have struggled for freedom, dignity and justice.

**RECOGNIZING FAIRFAX COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHERS FOR  
PARTICIPATING IN THE SALLY  
RIDE SCIENCE ACADEMY**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a select group of math and science teachers from Fairfax County Public Schools. They recently participated in the Sally Ride 2011 Science Academy in San Diego.

The Academy is an intense one-week professional development program in which elementary and middle school teachers learn new skills for introducing students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and educating their students about the diverse education and career opportunities in those fields. The Academy uses a train-the-trainer model, in which participants return to their school districts to train other teachers during the school year. Sally Ride Science, founded by the first American woman in space, operates the Academy in partnership with ExxonMobil, which has one of its corporate headquarters in Fairfax County.

With only 29% of American 4th graders and 33% of 8th graders performing at proficient levels in science, we need to redouble our efforts in the STEM fields, particularly to recruit more girls and minorities. In today's economy, 8 of the 10 fastest growing jobs require proficiency in math and science, yet American universities rank 27th among developed nations with respect to the number of students graduating with science or engineering degrees.

Thanks to the work of the Sally Ride Science Academy, these and other teachers now have additional training and skills to assist them in encouraging more of our young people to become excited about science and math. I am pleased to recognize the following Fairfax County Public Schools teachers for participating in the Academy: Heather McCarthy, Lynnette Harris, Luann Hoyseth, Lauren Bello, Jodi Hepner, Danielle Heffron, Alane Peragallo, Shannon Waite, and Holly Eelman.

To date, the Sally Ride Science Academy has successfully trained more than 650 educators spanning 16 States, and they have returned to their perspective districts to train an additional 4,400 teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these remarkable teachers for their efforts to change the way math and

science are taught in our classrooms and for improving the quality of education for youngsters in our community.

**CONGRATULATING MEME OMOGBAI  
FOR BEING NAMED CHAIR OF  
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
MUSEUMS**

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Meme Omogbai, Chief Operating Officer of The Newark Museum, on being named Chair of the American Association of Museums. This is an unprecedented honor for The Newark Museum in Newark, New Jersey. Prior to her election, Omogbai served the AAM in many capacities including as co-author of its ground-breaking strategic plan.

Ms. Omogbai was born in Nigeria and moved to the United States as a child. She obtained both a Bachelor of Science degree in accountancy and an M.B.A. in finance and management consultancy from Rutgers University. She has a keen interest in public service and pursued opportunities in New Jersey state government. During her 10-year tenure with the state she became the youngest deputy assistant chancellor of the NJ Department of Higher Education.

Ms. Omogbai was part of the team that developed the widely acclaimed NJ College Loan to Assist State Students Program while overseeing \$6.5 billion in assets and crafting legislation as a policy adviser in the state treasurer's office. She also worked with the Casino Control Commission.

Ms. Omogbai is a community leader with important, active roles on the boards of such organizations as the New Jersey Historic Trust, the American Association of Museums, the Advisory Board of Montclair State University, St. Vincent Academy and the Newark Regional Business Partnership.

I congratulate Meme Omogbai on being named Chair of the American Association of Museums.

**RECOGNIZING THE 51ST ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE PEACE CORPS AND  
11TH DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today and recognize the Peace Corps on the 51st Anniversary of its inception. Since President John F. Kennedy's inspirational call to service in the 1960s, the Peace Corps has played an integral role in the journey toward world peace and understanding.

The Peace Corps is vital to our strategies for diplomacy and development assistance. This year alone, approximately 9,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have made significant contributions in more than 75 countries. Volunteers learn more than 175 languages and dialects with placements in Asia, Africa, Europe,

Central and South America, the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

The effects of service ripple across a wide variety of communities. The Peace Corps not only provides invaluable assistance to the developing world, but also returns effective cross-cultural leaders to the American workforce. Through their service, volunteers develop steadfast creativity and determination that permeates through everything they do.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the 28 residents of the 11th District of Virginia who have met this extraordinary call to service: Daniel Beale, Michael Burke, Megan Bush, Michelle Carr, Jennifer Cook, Kevin Dansereau, Emily Forsyth Queen, Carolyn Glidden, Kendall Gordon, Salwan Hager, Molly Jacobson, Brittany Kennell, Shantonu Kundu, Catherine Leitch, Laura Lloyd-Braff, Douglas Mann, Patricia Marks, Ryan McGibony, Laura Olsen, Kristin Powers, Eric Reeder, Kristopher Reinertson, Ashley Studholme, Anh-Minh Tran, Anastasia Tucker, Emily Vallowe, Peter Weems, and Priscilla Yu.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Peace Corps for 51 years of invaluable service to our Nation and our world. Through its diplomatic and development service, the Peace Corps has established valuable cross-cultural understanding. Virginia's 11th District is especially proud to recognize the service of our 28 residents abroad.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2012, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote 95. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 95, on passage of H.R. 3637.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during yesterday's roll call vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 3637.

**RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF  
THE 2012 DALE CITY CIVIC ASSO-  
CIATION COMMUNITY AWARDS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2012 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards.

The Dale City Civic Association was founded in 1967. Citizens formed the organization to give a voice to community initiatives and